

NASA's achievements throughout its history. My state has a well-deserved reputation as a high-technology giant, making our job creators a perfect match with NASA, and the space agency has come to depend upon Minnesota ingenuity and expertise. Dozens of Minnesota firms currently work under NASA's space shuttle program; I was honored to witness their accomplishments first-hand in 1997 when I toured NASA's Florida facilities and viewed the launch of the space shuttle Columbia.

None of these achievements would have been possible without modern astronomy, and our astronomers will no doubt be at the center of space research for years to come. In Minnesota, we are fortunate to have many groups that are determined to keep the interest in astronomy high for all generations. I would like to draw your attention to the Minnesota Astronomical Society, whose members are active in the growing movement to generate interest in astronomy. I commend them for their enthusiasm and their success in turning our attention to the skies.

Mr. President, I would be remiss if I neglected to note the great work being done at the University of Minnesota Department of Astronomy. Department Head Leonard Kuhi directs a staff of more than 30 scientists and professors busy working on a wide variety of research projects that are at the cutting edge of astronomic research. These include projects in space physics, cosmology, computational astrophysics, and others.

We in Minnesota also have the distinct pleasure and privilege of being home to the great Minneapolis Planetarium, a top-rate facility that provides an avenue of discovery for everyone who comes to visit. The Minneapolis Planetarium offers visitors a wide variety of programs for all to enjoy.

I again recognize International Astronomy Day and commend all those in my state—the backyard astronomy clubs that offer many their first glimpse into the cosmos; the planetariums, observatories, and museums that bring the richness of space down to Earth for all; and the Minnesota organizations and companies that are putting our fascination with space to practical use—who are helping to keep the interest in astronomy running high.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:18 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1776. An act to expand homeownership in the United States.

MEASURE REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1776. An act to expand homeownership in the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-8401. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Department of the Treasury transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of Public Law 105-34, Section 1417, Related to the Use of Additional Ameliorating Material in Certain Wines" (RIN1512-AB78), received April 3, 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8402. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Department of the Treasury transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of Public Law 105-33, Section 9302, Relating to Tobacco Importation Restrictions, Markings, Minimum Manufacturing Requirements, and Penalty Provisions" (RIN1512-AB99), received April 3, 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8403. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Department of the Treasury transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of Public Law 105-33, Section 9302, Relating to the Imposition of Permit Requirements on the Manufacture of Roll-Your-Own Tobacco" (RIN1512-AB92), received April 3, 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8404. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Department of the Treasury transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of Public Law 105-33, Section 9302, Requiring the Qualification of Tobacco Product Importers and Miscellaneous Technical Amendments" (RIN1512-AC07), received April 3, 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8405. A communication from the Chairperson, National Commission on Libraries and Information Science transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Preliminary Assessment of the Proposed Closure of the National Technical Information Service (NTIS)"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. HELMS, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment.

S. 2382. An original bill to authorize appropriations for technical assistance for fiscal year 2001, to promote trade anti-corruption measures, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-257).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 2381. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to include additional information in social security account statements; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HELMS:

S. 2382. An original bill to authorize appropriations for technical assistance for fiscal year 2001, to promote trade anti-corruption measures, and for other purposes; placed on the calendar.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. Res. 283. A resolution to direct the Senate Legal Counsel to intervene in the name of the Senate Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on the Judiciary in United States of America v. Northwest Airlines Corporation, et al.; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. Res. 284. A resolution to authorize testimony, document production, and legal representation in United States of America v. George Patrick Calhoun; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 662

At the request of Mr. L. CHAFEE, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 662, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide medical assistance for certain women screened and found to have breast or cervical cancer under a federally funded screening program.

S. 1017

At the request of Mr. MACK, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1017, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the State ceiling on the low-income housing credit.

S. 1020

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas